

Claims

1. A method of establishing a communications group in a communications network comprising user equipments, **characterized** by comprising:

5 sending (2-4, 2-5) a request from one user equipment (UEA) acting as a master equipment to at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) over a communications medium, preferably a short-range communications medium, said request prompting the user of the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to send user information for group establishment in the communications network;

10 at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) sending a response (2-8, 2-12) comprising user information for group establishment, over the communications medium to the master user equipment (UEA);

the master user equipment (UEA) creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC); and

15 the master user equipment (UEA) sending the information on the created or modified group to the network for establishing said group.

2. A method of establishing a communications group in a communications network, **characterized** by comprising:

20 sending (2-4, 2-5) a request from master user equipment (UEA) to at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) over a communications medium, preferably a short-range communications medium, said request prompting the user of the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to send user information for group establishment in the communications network;

25 at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) sending over the communications medium a response (2-8, 2-12) comprising user information for group establishment to the master user equipment (UEA) for communication in the communication network;

the master user equipment (UEA) creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC); and

30 the master user equipment (UEA) sending the information on the created or modified group to all members of the group over the communications medium.

35 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized** in that the request and /or the response is one of the following: a multicast request, a

point-to-point request, a short message request, an instant message request, an e-mail message request, a multimedia message request, a unified messaging message request, a WAP (Wireless Application Protocol) message request or an SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) message request.

5 4. A method according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized** by further comprising the master equipment (UEA), in step of creating or modifying the group, checking the response from slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) and if the information of the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) is acceptable, adding the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to the group.

10 5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the request consists of a file which guides the user of the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to send only the information needed to establish the group to the master user equipment (UEA).

15 6. A method according to one of the claims 1 - 5, **characterized** in that the request consists of a file which guides the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) only the information needed to establish the group to send to the master user equipment (UEA).

20 7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the master user equipment (UEA) retrieves the file for the request from the communications network, and/or from its memory, and/or from the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC).

 8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the master user equipment (UEA) creates the file for the request.

25 9. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the communications medium is one of the following short-range communications media or networks: a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an IrDA network, a Bluetooth medium or a network according to the IEEE 802.11 standards.

30 10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the communications network is one of the following networks: a digital mobile communications network, a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an IrDA network, a Bluetooth network or a network according to the IEEE 802.11
35 standards.

11. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** by further comprising

before sending (2-4, 2-5) the multicast request from the master user equipment (UEA) to at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC), the master user equipment (UEA) selects an identification to be used in the information interchange.

12. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the request is send by using multicasting.

13. A method according to claims 1-11, **characterized** in that the request is send by using broadcasting.

14. A method according to claim 11, **characterized** in that the identification is an MSISDN number.

15. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the master user equipment sends the request automatically when new user equipment enters a predetermined area.

16. A method according to claim 15, **characterized** by detecting entrance of a client or new user equipment into the predetermined area,

sending the request over the communications medium at least in the proximity of the entrance point.

17. A method according to claim 15, **characterized** by sending the request periodically over the communications medium at least in the proximity of the entrance point to the predetermined area.

18. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the master user equipment deletes user equipment from a group when the user equipment exits a predetermined area or after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

19. A method according to claim 18, **characterized** by detecting exit of a client or user equipment from the predetermined area,

sending an identification request over the communications medium at least in the proximity of the exit point,

deleting a group member from the group on the basis of a response to the identification request, if any.

20. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the master user equipment or another device

provided with the group information sends advertisements to the group members over the communications network.

21. User equipment comprising a group communications capability, **characterized** by comprising

5 means for sending (2-4, 2-5) a request to at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) over a communications medium, preferably a short-range communications medium, said request prompting the user of the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to send user information for group establishment for communication in the communication network;

10 means for receiving from at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) over the communications medium a response (2-8, 2-12) comprising user information for group establishment;

means for creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC);

15 and

means for sending the information on the created or modified group to the network for establishing said group.

22. User equipment comprising a group communications capability, **characterized** by comprising

20 means for sending (2-4, 2-5) a request to at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) over a communications medium prompting the user of the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to send user information for group establishment;

25 means for receiving from at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) over the communications medium a response (2-8, 2-12) comprising user information for group establishment;

means for creating or modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC); and

30 means for sending the information on the created or modified group to all members of the group via the communications medium.

23. User equipment according to claim 21 or 22, **characterized** in the communications medium include one of the following short-range communications media or networks: a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an IrDA network, a Bluetooth medium or a network according to the IEEE 802.11 standards.

35

24. User equipment according to claim 21, 22 or 23, **characterized** in that the communication network is one of the following networks: a digital mobile communications network, a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an IrDA network, a Bluetooth network or a network according to the IEEE 802.11 standards.

25. A communications system, comprising
a mobile communications network,
a plurality of user equipment each including a group communications capability in the mobile communications network, and a transceiver for further communication over a short-range communications medium, **characterized** by comprising:

at least one user equipment being configured to operate as master user equipment (UEA) and to send (2-4, 2-5) a request to at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) over the short-range communications medium prompting the user of the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to send user information for group establishment in the mobile communications network;

at least one user equipment being configured to operate as slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) and to send to the master user equipment (UEA) over the short-range communications medium a response (2-8, 2-12) comprising user information for group establishment;

the master user equipment (UEA) being further configured to create or modify the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC); and

the master user equipment (UEA) being further configured to send the information on the created or modified group to the mobile communications network for establishing said group.

26. A communications system, comprising
a mobile communications network,
a plurality of user equipment each including a group communications capability in the mobile communications network, and a transceiver for further communication over a short-range communications medium, **characterized** by comprising:

at least one user equipment being configured to operate as master user equipment (UEA) and to send (2-4, 2-5) a request to at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) over the short-range communications medium prompting the user of the slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) to send user in-

formation for group establishment in the mobile communications network;

at least one user equipment being configured to operate as slave user equipment (UEB, UEC) and to send to the master user equipment (UEA) over the short-range communications medium a response (2-8, 2-12) comprising user information for group establishment;

the master user equipment (UEA) being further configured to create or modify the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment (UEB, UEC); and

the master user equipment (UEA) being further configured to send the information on the created or modified group to all members of the group over the short-range communications medium.

27. A system according to 25 or 26, **characterized** in that the short-range communications medium include one of the following short-range communications media or networks: a wireless local area network, an IrDA network, a Bluetooth medium or a network according to the IEEE 802.11 standards.

28. A system according to any one of claims 25 to 27, **characterized** in that the master user equipment being configured to send the request automatically when new user equipment enters a predetermined area.

29. A system according to 28, **characterized** in that the master user equipment being further configured to delete user equipment from a group when the user equipment exits a predetermined area or a predetermined time has elapsed from entering the member to the group.

30. A system according to 28 or 29, **characterized** by means for sending advertisements to the group members over the communications network.